

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 CU-04  
AGRE-00 IO-13 /106 W  
-----032066 300232Z /64

R 272158Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4994  
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE  
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRIDGETOWN 0842

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PEPR, MPOL, ECON, XL, CU, BB, GJ

SUBJ: CUBAN OUTREACH IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING EASTERN CARIBBEAN

REF: A) STATE 056727 B) BRIDGETOWN 0714 (NOTAL) C) 77 BRIDGETOWN  
2954 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. WITH LIMITED EFFORTS IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING ISLANDS  
OF THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN, CUBA HAD ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS AND SOME  
NOTABLE FAILURES IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. NO ISLAND GOVERNMENT  
ACCEPTED CUBAN OFFERS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORS, AND  
ONLY A MINIMUM NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL LINKS WERE ESTABLISHED. A  
SLOW BUT STEADY STREAM OF LOW-LEVEL VISITORS TRAVEL TO CUBA BUT  
NO GOVERNMENT LEADERS OF CONSEQUENCE HAVE CHOSEN TO GO. THE  
LEADERS OF BARBADOS, GRENADA AND DOMINICA PUBLICALLY REJECTED  
CUBAN INFLUENCE AND ATTACKED EXTREMIST SOCIALISM. CUBAN INFLUENCE  
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IS MOST EVIDENT IN THE ACTIVITIES OF RESIDENT RADICAL  
LEFTISTS. IF THE CURRENT MODEST LEVEL OF OVERT CUBAN  
ACTIVITIES IS TO BE TAKEN AS PRIMARY EVIDENCE OF CUBAN  
INTEREST AND INFLUENCE IN THIS AREA, THEN WE MUST CON-  
CLUDE THAT THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN REMAINS A LOW PRIORITY  
AREA FOR CUBA FOR THE PRESENT. END SUMMARY.

1. PERMANENT OVERT CUBAN PRESENCE IN THE AREA SERVED BY THIS EMBASSY IS LIMITED TO THREE CUBAN EMPLOYEES OF CUBANA AIRLINES IN BARBADOS. RESIDENT MANAGER CARLOS RUGA SOMETIMES ACTS AS AN INFORMAL CUBAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE. SEVERAL TEAMS OF CUBAN COMMERCIAL AND LABOR UNION OFFICIALS TRAVELED THROUGH BARBADOS IN 1977. THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR RESIDENT IN GEORGETOWN, DR. IVAN CESAR MARTINEZ, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS IN BARBADOS IN MARCH (BRIDGETOWN 714, 677, 613). GRENADA HAS NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA. THE ASSOCIATED STATES ARE NOT KNOWN TO HAVE RECEIVED ANY CUBAN VISITORS OF CONSEQUENCE SINCE THE 1976 VISIT OF THE CUBAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE CARIBBEAN DEPARTMENT HEAD, OSVALDO CARDENAS.

2. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES OF CUBA IN THE AREA ALMOST WHOLLY CONSIST OF CEMENT SALES TO FIRMS IN BARBADOS AND DOMINICA AT PRICES LOWER THAN THOSE CHARGED BY TRADITIONAL SUPPLIER TRINIDAD. OTHER COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS, IN AREAS SUCH AS THOSE TO WHICH THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR RECENTLY REFERRED (REF B), HAVE NOT MATERIALIZED.

3. CUBA OFFERED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORS TO BARBADOS, DOMINICA, ST. KITTS AND ST. VINCENT, SPECIFICALLY IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION AND HEALTH. NONE OF THE ISLAND GOVERNMENTS ACCEPTED THE OFFERS, APPAR-  
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ENTLY BECAUSE THEY DISTRUST CUBAN INTENTIONS AND BECAUSE THEY EXPECT A NEGATIVE US RESPONSE TO ANY INCREASE IN TIES WITH CUBA.

4. THE LEADERS OF BARBADOS, GRENADA AND DOMINICA PUBLICALLY IN RECENT MONTHS REJECTED CUBAN INFLUENCE IN THE REGION, ATTACKED THE EXCESSES OF EXTREMIST SOCIALISM AND PLEDGED CONTINUED MAINTENANCE OF DEMOCRACY AND PERSONAL LIBERTY IN THE REGION (SEE BRIDGETOWN A-7 OF 2/10/78 AND BRIDGETOWN 245 AND 419). THESE STATEMENTS WERE IN RESPONSE TO IMAGINATIVE ATTENTION-GETTING ACTIONS BY THE HANDFUL OF PRO-CUBAN RADICALS IN THE REGION.

5. CUBAN INFLUENCE IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN IS MOST EVIDENT IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE RADICALS AND THEIR GROUPS WHICH ARE OUTSIDE THE ESTABLISHED POLITICAL PARTIES (ANTIGUA, DOMINICA, ST. KITTS AND ST. VINCENT) OR ARE SMALL MINORITIES WITHIN THE ESTABLISHED PARTIES (BARBADOS AND ST. LUCIA). ONLY IN GRENADA DOES A MARXIST-LENINIST PARTY, THE NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT, HAVE A SEPARATE IDENTITY THAT HAS VOTER APPEAL, ALTHOUGH THE NJM, TOO, IS SUBMERGED IN THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT COALITION, THE PEOPLES' ALLIANCE.

THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT ROSIE DOUGLAS IN DOMINICA WORKS WITH DIRECTION FROM CUBA, ALTHOUGH HE ALSO GETS FRATERNAL BOOSTS FROM GUYANA. NJM LEADERS FROM GRENADA TRAVELED TO CUBA IN 1977, BUT MORE OFTEN TRAVEL TO GUYANA. THE PROPONENT OF "SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM", DR. RALPH GONSOLVES, A LECTURER AT THE CAVE HILL CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, TRAVELS TO CUBA AND GUYANA. HE ORGANIZED A SMALL GROUP OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO DISTRIBUTE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE COMMUNIST MATERIALS FROM GUYANA INCLUDING GRAMMA. CUBAN AND GUYANESE INFLUENCE AND DIRECTION IS EVIDENT IN MANY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RADICAL LEFTISTS AND STUDENT GROUPS AND JAMAICAN RADICALS AT THE UNIVERSITY ARE ALSO INFLUENTIAL.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRIDGETOWN 0842

6. THE RADICALS HAVE ESTABLISHED LINKS WITH MUCH OF THE MEDIA IN THE AREA, AS MUCH OUT OF THEIR RELATIVE MILITANCY AS FROM WHAT MIGHT BE CAREFUL ORCHESTRATION. BECAUSE OF THEIR POLITICAL PRECOCITY AND THE INTELLECTUAL STIMULATION THEY PROVIDE, THE LEFTIST RADICALS COMMAND MEDIA TIME OR SPACE ALMOST AT WILL. THE YOULOU LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF ST. VINCENT (YOULIMO), FOR EXAMPLE, HAS A NUCLEUS OF SIX TO EIGHT PEOPLE, INCLUDING GONSALVES IN BARBADOS. BUT IT HAS GAINED MEDIA ATTENTION BY ISSUING STATEMENTS IN ITS OWN YOULOU NAME; IN THE NAMES OF ITS LEADERS; IN THE NAME OF ITS NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE

WORKERS UNION, A PAPER ORGANIZATION; IN THE NAME OF THE  
YOULOU PEACE COUNCIL AND IN THE NAME OF THE YOULOU/CUBA  
FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY. COMMUNIST AGITPROP MATERIALS ENTER  
THE AREA FROM OUTSIDE. MOST SEEM TO COME FROM GUYANA.

7. WE BELIEVE CUBA IS INTENT ON ENLARGING ITS CONTACTS  
IN THE REGION BUT WITH NO SPECIFIC TIMETABLE IN MIND.  
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CUBA APPEARS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN MORE COMMERCIAL  
LINKS, ASSISTANCE TIES AND EXCHANGE VISITORS. THE STEPS  
TAKEN BY CUBA THUS FAR DO NOT INDICATE THAT CUBA  
ASSIGNS A HIGH PRIORITY TO THIS AREA. CERTAINLY,  
DETERIORATING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH  
REGARD TO UNEMPLOYMENT, AND A RAPID DECLINE IN WESTERN  
INTEREST IN THE AREA CREATING A POWER VACUUM WOULD BE  
IMPORTANT FACTORS IN INCREASING CUBA'S INTEREST. THESE  
CONDITIONS WOULD ALSO MAKE A LEFTIST IDEOLOGICAL APPROACH  
MORE APPEALING THAN THE PRAGMATIC PROBLEM-  
SOLVING THAT NOW CHARACTERIZES MOST OF THESE ISLANDS.  
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NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINR, PEPR, MPOL, ECON, XL, CU, BB, GJ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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